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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/875,814	06/05/2001	Ashvinkumar J. Sanghvi	MSI-689US	5999

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EXAMINER

SIDDIQI, MOHAMMAD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/875,814

Applicant(s)

SANGHVI ET AL.

Examiner

Mohammad A. Siddiqi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08/22/2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                                         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/06/2005</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-20 and 22-29 are presented for examination. Claim 21 has been canceled.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 6, 7 and 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. For example, in claim 14, the phrase "arranging conflicting policies in order", the order possibly can be in consecutive or hierarchal, in either instances applicant has no limitation/language that an intersection can possibly occur. Determination of intersection is vague and indefinite. See MPEP § 2173.05(d). Furthermore, the claim allows plurality of local policies that can be conflicting. The selection of the preferred policy closest to the local cannot be achieved. If all the conflicting policies are local policies, either don't intersect or have similar intersection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-20 and 22-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Thebaut et al. (5,889,953) (hereinafter Thebaut).

6. As per claim 1, Thebaut discloses a computer-implemented method comprising:

identifying multiple policies to be combined together (policy is interpreted as set of rules that govern the interaction between a subject and an object, col 4, lines 5-25);

determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies (col 4, lines 25-35);

adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set (producing a rule set, col 4, lines 15-25); and

resolving conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy based on an allowed range of policy value (col 4, lines 25-54); and

including the preferred policy in the merged policy set (col 4, lines 15-24; lines 45-57).

7. As per claim 2, Thebaut discloses the preferred policy represents a preferred range of values associated with at least one of the multiple policies (rule that satisfies largest number of conditions, lines 45-54).

8. As per claim 3, Thebaut discloses determining an allowed range of values associated with the multiple policies (most specific to least specific to col 4, lines 45-54).

9. As per claim 4, Thebaut discloses the preferred policy is contained within the allowed range of values associated with the multiple policies (most specific to least specific to col 4, lines 45-54).

10. As per claim 5, Thebaut discloses deleting policies that are outside the allowed range of values (col 4, lines 40-54), wherein the allowed range of values is associated with the multiple policies (most specific to least specific to col 4, lines 45-54).

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11. As per claim 6, Thebaut discloses selecting a preferred policy includes: arranging conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local policies (most specific to least specific to col 4, lines 45-54);

determining an intersection of the conflicting policy templates (overlapping, col 4, lines 40-44; col 8, lines 61-67; col 9, lines 1-21); and

selecting the preferred policy template based on the intersection of the conflicting policy templates (overlapping, col 4, lines 40-54; col 8, lines 61-67; col 9, lines 1-21).

12. As per claim 7, Thebaut discloses selecting a preferred policy includes:

Arranging conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local policies (most specific to least specific to col 4, lines 45-54);

determining an intersection of the conflicting policy templates (overlapping, col 4, lines 40-44; col 8, lines 61-67; col 9, lines 1-21); and

selecting the preferred policy template based on the policy template closest to the local policies and within the intersection of the

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conflicting policy templates (overlapping, col 4, lines 40-54; col 8, lines 61-67; col 9, lines 1-21).

13. As per claim 8, Thebaut discloses the policies are event-handling policies (col 4, lines 9-15).

14. As per claim 9, Thebaut discloses the policies define how a device is to be configured (col 4, lines 58-64).

15. As per claim 10, Thebaut discloses the policies identify the types of events that are provided to each device (col 4, lines 8-15; col 3 lines 31-34).

16. As per claim 11, Thebaut discloses resolving conflicting policies includes comparing related policies individually (col 8, lines 61-65).

17. As per claim 12, Thebaut discloses wherein the method is implemented by a management module (PCM, col 4, lines 63-67).

18. As per claim 13, Thebaut discloses one or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform (col 5, lines 60-65; col 6 lines 1-11).

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19. As per claim 14, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 7, above.

20. As per claim 15, Thebaut discloses the preferred policy represents a preferred range of values associated with at least one of the multiple policies (col 4, lines 45-54).

21. As per claim 16, Thebaut discloses deleting policies that are outside the preferred range of values (col 4, lines 40-54).

22. As per claim 17, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 14 and 8 above.

23. As per claims 18, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 14 and 9 above.

24. As per claim 19, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 14 and 13 above.

25. As per claim 20, claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition Thebaut discloses a storage device (fig 15, col 16, lines 54-65); a management module coupled to the storage device



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(col 16, lines 54-65; col 4, lines 63-67, policy-based configuration manager).

26. As per claim 22, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 20 and 7 above.

27. As per claim 23, Thebaut discloses the management module is part of an enterprise computing system (col 4, lines 63-67).

28. As per claim 24, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 20. In addition, Thebaut discloses the management module receives event data generated by a plurality of event providers coupled to the management module (col 4, lines 8-15; lines 63-67; col 5, lines 1-21).

29. As per claim 25, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 20 and 9 above.

30. As per claim 26, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 20 and 10 above.

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31. As per claims 27-29, claims are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1-10, above.

### ***Conclusion***

32. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

U.S. Patent 6,473,851 teaches merging multiple policies, overlapping/intersecting and conflict resolution.

U.S. Patent 5,872,928 teaches defining and enforcing policies.

U.S. Patent 6,243,747 teaches defining and enforcing policies.

U.S. Patent 6,381,639 teaches defining and enforcing policies.

U.S. Patent 6,799,208

U.S. Patent 6,466,932

33. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad A. Siddiqi whose telephone number is (571) 272-3976. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday.

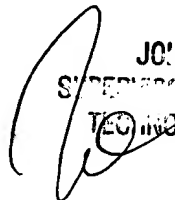
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A. Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MAS

 JOHN FOLLANSBEE  
SENIOR PATENT EXAMINER  
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